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WASHINGTON.

The Adjournment Question Still Unsettled.

Mr. Sumner to be Deposed from the Chairmanship of the Foreign Committee.

Garfield Likely to be Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

Further Charges Against Commissioner Pleasanton.

The Southern Claims Commission Appointed by the President.

Movement Looking to a Change in the Chicago Revenue Collectorship.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.
THE ADJOURNMENT QUESTION.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—It is very generally admitted on all sides that, in the present disposition with regard to the adjournment, the views of the President on the subject would settle the question, because the Executive shares the general inclination, and, if he expresses a desire to remain, members are loath to run with regard to the necessity of a continued session. Senator Sumner informed the President to-day that he had informed the President that it would be entirely useless to send for any message to Congress at the present session, for any message to Congress at the present session, for any message to Congress at the present session,

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THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1871.

WORK OF THE LATE SESSION OF CONGRESS.

The third session of the Forty-first Congress was more remarkable for the number of land-grabbing and money-grabbing schemes which it squelched than for the great number of important acts which it passed. And yet the credit which we might feel like ascribing to it, in this respect, is entirely modified by the fact that, but for the exceeding leniency which the same Congress has manifested, during its previous sittings, toward those who would plunder the Treasury in behalf of local or purely private enterprises, there would not have been so many challenging action now.

During the three months of the late session, the Forty-first Congress found time to talk over the affairs of the country with considerable freedom, as it is fitting in the character of proxies of individual members who still possess the right of attention to this latter, there were passed 91 acts and 37 joint resolutions, but a small portion of which were of general public interest. Of the whole number of acts, 111, or nearly two-thirds, were for the relief of individuals or for pensions to individuals.

The most important acts which have become laws are, that modifying the Test Oath of United States officers of rebellious antecedents; that providing a Territorial Government for the District of Columbia; that completing the legislation necessary to the establishment of a Department of Justice; that providing for the better enforcement of the rights of voters, with especial reference to the States formerly in rebellion; and that distributing land grants to the Southern Pacific Railway. An act making appropriations for revenue cutters, and an act empowering the Union Pacific Railroad to build a bridge across the Missouri at Omaha, are also of interest to the Northwest.

Two important acts which have been very loudly demanded in certain quarters, may be said to have been passed *a very little*. These relate to the civil service reform and the naval rank questions. There was attached to the Sundry Civil Service Appropriation bill the following section, which has now become a law:

> SEC. —. That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to prescribe such rules and regulations for the admission of persons into the civil service of the United States as will best promote the efficiency thereof, and ascertain the fitness and capacity of persons to discharge the duties of the service into which they seek to be appointed, and for this purpose he is authorized to make suitable provision for the enforcement of the rules which he may prescribe for admission into the service, and for the investigation of the character, habits, and fitness of applicants for appointment.

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This sweeping declaration will scarcely be instrumental in the accomplishment of any good, and was doubtless designed more as an excuse for not doing something worth while next session. Similarly, the chief officers of the navy complain that the bill awarding them "relative" as "actualized" rank with those of the line, which was smuggled through with the Naval Appropriation bill, is characterized by such contradictions as to render it practically inoperative. Whoever is disappointed at the shortcomings of the Forty-first Congress, however, may console himself with the Forty-second, whose present session now bids fair to continue for some time.

GENERALIZING LEGISLATION.

There is a bill before the Legislature "to enable towns lying within twenty miles of cities having more than 30,000 inhabitants to become incorporated for municipal purposes." This is supposed to be "general" legislation. We notice that this crisis is remedied to upon a variety of subjects to evade the express prohibition of special legislation. If it be a general law to provide specially for the incorporation of towns lying within twenty miles of cities having more than 30,000 inhabitants, why not equally general to limit the distance to two miles, or to extend it to fifty miles, or to a precise distance, as 18, or 19½ miles? Suppose the town of Elgin would desire, under the general law, to be legislation; to provide that "all" towns located upon Section No. —, Township —, Range —[fill in the blanks with the numbers citing Elgin] shall be empowered, &c.? Would it be general legislation? Suppose that it "all" cities located on the Illinois River, or not more than six miles from some other town having a population, by the last census, of 15,564, or any other determinate number, should have exceptional legislation? Legislation is generalized from passing any local or special laws granting divorces; would it be general to pass a law divorcing all women whose maiden names were Mary Smith, and who, on a day named, were married in a place named, to any man named John Brown, and who had four children, and then resided in a town and county named? Would it be general legislation to pass a law regulating the practice in all courts of justice in all counties having not less than 27,564 nor more than 27,566 population, according to the last census?

The constitution imperatively forbids any special legislation "incorporating cities, towns, or villages, or changing or amending the charter of any town, city, or village." This requires a general law in every case. Under this provision the Legislature may have the power to provide for a classification of cities, and enact a general law for each; but it is an evasion of the constitution to pass a law which will call attention to the cases of the Quinceys, the Wall Walles, the Centralias, Chapetons and Santee Sioux, the Moultrie, Hamilton and Whiteside Sioux, the Sioux, Kellaems, Geneva and Tallapoosa, which are equally commendable for economy; but even the few nations which we have cited, together with the cases severally set against their names, cannot but serve, in connection with the other items of appropriation above noted, to inspire the patriotic American sneer with the proud consciousness that "this is a great country."

THE NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD TAX.

In 1869, Vanderbilt startled the country by a declaration that the property, worth $20,000,000 (at the stockholders of the New York Central Railway, in addition to the ordinary cash dividend. At the next session of the Legislature of New York, the stock dividend or increase of the capital of the company was declared. The officers of the United States assessed the company under the Income Tax for $2,150,000 upon this dividend, but the company has not up to this time paid the tax. Delays and evasions have been allowed until recently the whole question has been argued before the Secretary, Commissioner Pleasanton, of the Internal Revenue Department. The points made in the argument were, that the company had been for many years expending its earnings in the increase of its property, and that interest certificates were issued in payment for the work, which were equivalent to the earnings thus expended. In other words, that the company borrowed its own money to enlarge, extend, and improve the facilities of the road, and that, in 1869, all that was done was to declare the interest on the certificates as issue of stock to the holders. The company claims that the $22,000,000 of interest certificates were issued prior to 1861, and that the issue of stock in 1869 was not a dividend at all, but a mere funding of outstanding interest certificates. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has decided against this view of the case, and the company has appealed to the Secretary of the Treasury. The question is a very important one, and involves the principle of taxation of all corporations which have been in the habit of increasing their capital stock by declaring dividends of their earnings. The Secretary of the Treasury will probably decide the case in a few days.

APROPOS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The total of appropriations made by the recent session of Congress for the year ending June 30, 1872, is $168,614,681.69, which, we regret to say, exceeds the sum of the appropriations made the previous year by over $5,000,000. Of this, however, a considerable part—perhaps all—is due to the unusually large deficiency list, amounting to over $10,000,000. The amounts appropriated in the several classes of objects are as follows:

Pensions	$ 29,000,000
Indians	7,427,500.00
Rivers and harbors	5,000,000.00
Military academy	252,000.00
Commerce and collection	4,000,000.00
Fortifications	2,500,000.00
Mint, &c	1,000,000.00
Army	37,172,000.00
Sundry civil	28,703,203.69
Deficiencies	10,000,000.00
Legislative, Executive, and judicial	17,767,787.00
Total appropriations for 1872	$168,614,681.69
Total appropriations for 1871	187,787,187.00

Some of the features of the above appropriations are interesting as curiosities, and some possess an interest beyond that of mere curiosity. The Western man will be interested, for instance, to perceive in summing the list of appropriations for pensions, through that, of the $4,000,000 devoted to that purpose, only $118,000, or a hundred-dollar in twenty-six, comes into the great and growing section lying between the Alleghanies—in fact between the Atlantic cities—and the Rocky Mountains. The fact that about three-fourths of the whole sum goes to the two cities, New York and Boston, and only one-twenty-sixth to all the cities of the West, whose needs for accommodation are increasing much faster, cannot but suggest how important it is that the West should have at Washington, to guard her interests, all the Representatives to which she is entitled without being subjected to a delay of two years after her due proportion of members has been revealed by each decennial census.

In respect to river and harbor improvements, however, we cannot complain of any such serious discrimination against us, the valleys of the Mississippi and the great lakes drawing out of the Treasury $12,329,280 of the whole $4,000,000 appropriated to that class of improvements. The old and time-honored harbors and inlets of the Atlantic, from Passamaquoddy Bay to the mouth of the Ocmulgee, having drawn their regular yearly stipend from time immemorial, the inhabitants adjacent to those harbors seem to have exhausted their ingenuity in devising new ways and means for sinking money in their native bays, while at the same time the places where bays ought to be, and where, astonishingly, Congress ought, in the fair estimation of the case, to step in and dredge them out, seem to have run short, and hence the comparative lightness of appropriations in that behalf. The east shows Lake Michigan looms up in the appropriation list with its accustomed grandeur, and the well-known harbors of Aux Bees Scies, Pentwater, Black Lake, Saugatuck, Ai Sable, Chebeygan, and South Haven, along that shore, vie with Masconmee, White Lake, Manistee, Pere Marquette, Manistique, Grand Haven and St. Joseph, also along that shore, in the energy of their annual attack upon the revenues of the General Government. It is confidently believed that no inlet or estuary, where any man owns a saw-mill, an agricultural implement or a lumber wagon, has been neglected by the sailor-born members of Congress who have represented Western Michigan in the Forty-first Congress, and that, consequently, every man has his warrant of appropriation in his hands.

The rivers have been pretty well attended to, the Upper Mississippi having carried away the following sums:

At 4th and dredging	$ 80,000
For Falls of St. Anthony	50,000
For improvement Rock Island Rapids	120,000
For improvement Des Moines Rapids	250,000
Total	$500,000

There are also appropriations of $125,000 for the mouth of the Mississippi, and a like amount "for the improvement of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers," in a vague and general way—improvements at large, as it were.

Our dearly-beloved aborigines are to cost us less than $6,000,000 next year, provided they do not become dissatisfied with that sum, and demand a dozen or twenty millions in the shape of a cavalry campaign against them. If the last-paying citizen is so sensitive as to feel a twinge of the pocket at the amount invested on the poor Red Man, he may soothe himself with the thought that—fatalities excepted—it only costs $30,000 odd to support the whole Choctaw Nation one year; and that if these great families of the mixed Shoshones, Bannocks, and Sheep Eaters are kept in red blankets, gunpowder, and army hats for $220,000 per annum, the noble Apaches, Comanches, and Kiowas, being more numerous or more ferocious, being more numerous, about to some $125,700 of revenue annually, while the Black Feet, Bloods, and Piegans are put off with $50,000. The Calapooias, Molallas, and Clackamas, of the Willamette, eke out an economical existence on $6,500—a fact which the Calapooias, Molallas, and Clackamas, of the Willamette, do not receive sufficient credit among the political economists of the world. Nor is it generally understood that the Nisqualties and Pillyups, with a small tribe or two thrown in, make-weight, are to be had along, on $9,200, and the allied nationalities of Qui Nai Utes, and Quil Lah Utes on $3,100. Yet such is the testimony of the Appropriation act, which also conveys information touching the Grosventres, Mandans, and Arickarees, that this group of three can all be kept in general luxury on an allowance of $40,000 per year from the government. We have not time to call attention to the cases of the Quinaways, the Walla Wallas, the Cayuses, the Umatillas, and the Wallawallas, the Grosventres and Santee Sioux, the Moultrie, Hamilton and Whiteside Sioux, the Sioux, Kellaems, Geneva and Tallapoosa, which are equally commendable for economy; but even the few nations which we have cited, together with the cases severally set against their names, cannot but serve, in connection with the other items of appropriation above noted, to inspire the patriotic American sneer with the proud consciousness that "this is a great country."

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THE SIX BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA.

The last or current silk year, for it will terminate in about a month, the best hopeful also to the connoisseurs of California silk, is no sale for the eggs, to the promotion of which the State Legislature, in 1868, gave a bribing premium of $5,000. The eggs have packing has been established, but not yet in full operation, and the eggs are there ready to be put in pots, and there is every reason to believe that the yield will be enormous. Still this year we have never professed much concern about the crop. Nearly all that we could grow was needed for eggs for home consumption, and there was also a large *Par-* demand for eggs; and it was in reliance on this demand that the work of last year was done. But before the season arrived the European silk districts would be or vast benefit to our State.

Even in the chief producer of silk, the price must rise when all professional crooks; and then there will be an additional demand for the extension of our machinery plantations and cocooneries. As our lands are more favorable than any other silk-producing country, there is much reason to hope for a rapid development of our silk industry.

We publish this morning a communication from the Secretary of the California Silk Manufacturing Company, stating that there is no market for eggs, and that the best course is to let all for white cocoons. This is not new. The present number in the State is, we presume, not less than 1,000,000, and if 500 pounds could be converted into good cocoons, they would yield several million pounds of silk. But, unfortunately, we have not found for so many, no matter how carefully we economize our mulberry trees; and it is doubtful whether we can keep eggs over until late in the summer without injury. If the eggs can be hatched in the forenoon of the present week, they will be ready for the market before the end of May, and the feeding time from early spring until late in the fall, we may, in the course of a respectable quantity of cocoons. Last year some of the worms were sickly, and their disease was attributed to the fact that they had been kept too cool, and had not been allowed to hatch at the proper time. The present impression is that the best way to care the eggs can be held back till September or October. There will probably be an additional experiment in this direction this year. The difficulty just now seems to be that we have already subjected to a discount of 2c. per pound. If cocoons are to be worth 40c. per pound, they must be worth 42c. when delivered, and that is the price which the Chinese have been accustomed to receive. Even at this rate the business would be profitable to the producer, and the State would be supported.

THE SOUTH PARK.

Mass Meeting of the Citizens of Hyde Park on Tuesday Evening.

Approval of the Bill for the Revision of Assessments now Before the Legislature.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of the citizens of Hyde Park was assembled on Tuesday evening to take action on the subject of the proposed transfer of the South Park to the city of Chicago, and the consolidation of the towns.

Mr. John A. Fisher was called to the Chair, and Mr. Frank Hall was appointed Secretary.

The Chairman called on Supervisor Wentworth to explain the object of the meeting. Mr. Wentworth said that the object was to protest against the bill now before the Legislature, and which had already passed the Senate, providing for the transfer of the South Park to the city, and for the consolidation of the towns. He was opposed to the bill for many reasons, but principally because it was unjust to the people of Hyde Park. The property of the people of Hyde Park was worth from $40 to $60 per foot, and the property in the rest of the city was worth from $1 to $2 per foot. The people of Hyde Park had paid their taxes for the purchase of the South Park, and they had been promised that the Park should be completed and ready for their use by the 1st of January, 1871. It was now the 9th of March, and the Park was not finished. Now, the people of Hyde Park were willing that the Park should be completed, and that the property of the people of the rest of the city should be taxed for the purpose, but they were not willing that the property of the people of Hyde Park should be taxed for the purpose of completing the Park. It was unjust to the people of Hyde Park, and it was unjust to the people of the rest of the city. The people of Hyde Park were willing to pay their share of the taxes for the completion of the Park, but they were not willing to pay more than their share. The people of Hyde Park were willing that the Park should be completed, but they were not willing that the property of the people of Hyde Park should be taxed for the purpose of completing the Park

STARTLING ATTEMPT.

A Rogue Discomfited of a Stone Street Bull Severely Wounded on Bridge Street—Death of the Inferior Animal—Confessing Adroitness of a Worthy Fourth Avenue Widow.

On Friday night last, there was a bull in Van Buren's hall, No. 79 Canal street. It was a comfortable hall, and, as the Common Council would say, there was nothing in the room to prevent a person from entering. Accordingly, Van Buren Post, G. A. R., had a meeting last night in the hall, and endeavored to get in. The contrivance laid him in the gutter, and he went away. Post and he would go in together, but he did not, as several of the other party handled him down stairs. He was very angry, and, in retaliation, picked up a bull and pitched it through a window of the first floor. The bull came down with a crash, and one of them, John O'Neil, struck him in the head and knocked him over. About midnight, a citizen passing by the hall heard a noise as of something dying. He looked in at the window, and saw the bull lying on the floor, and thought that the animal was dead. He informed the police of the fact, and Officer Hogan was detailed to watch the bull. He thought he should identify the man who had committed the outrage, but, as it was, he had no particular difficulty in the matter. The bull was the property of Mr. Peter Gilbert, of Stone street, and was valued at $50. Hogan arrested Van Buren, and he was locked up in the Harrison street station. Yesterday morning, Justice Morrison fined him $50 and costs, which he paid, and was released. The bull died yesterday morning.

ANOTHER SANGUINARY AFFRAY.

A Duel between John Murray, a Fire Engineer, and Another Man—Both Parties Severely Wounded—Murder Narrowly Escaped—Shooting Affair at a Wake—North Avenue Matters.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE OLYMPIC THEATRE.

As the public desire has been expressed to have the pantomime of Humpty Dumpty repeated before the season closes, and as we cannot do justice to the scenic display in the limited space at our command, we have concluded to repeat the pantomime for the present week. Those who have not seen it should not fail to do so, as it is the most magnificent production ever made upon the stage of all the theatres in the city, and is the favorite of the season. Next week will be the last week of the Olympic.

Dan Bryant, the well-known minstrel, has returned to the city, and the benefit at the Academy of Music, last night, was the first appearance of Dan's troupe. The performance was a success in every respect, and the house was crowded from pit to dome. Dan will remain here for a few weeks, and Carlos Pierce has secured the services of a number of the leading members of the troupe for his Opera House season. Dan's troupe is one of the best in the country, and the public cannot do better than to patronize it.

The Chicago Varieties are doing a rushing business, and the performance is one of the best ever given in the city. The burlesque of Ixion is very funny. Fox and Ward, Lizzie Derious, Miss Lizzie Conway, Miss Annie Anderson, and the Misses Lizzie and Mollie Fox, are the principal members of the company, and all are deserving of praise. The olio is a very good one, and the entire performance is first-class. Next week will be the last week of the season, and those who have not visited the Varieties should not fail to do so.

Kelsey and Shannon's Minstrels are doing a rushing business at Kingsbury Hall, and will remain for another week. Their company is a very good one, and the performance is first-class. Next week will be the last week of the season, and those who have not visited the hall should not fail to do so.

The Lion, Mr. Frank Aiken, is the Open House lion again with Bryant's Minstrels.

Kellogg and Schoffel will give a concert in New York, the only one of the season, on the 22d inst.

Mr. Carl Rosa has opened an engagement at Niblo's Garden, New York, with Parepa. He opens in the United States next autumn.

The party of Italian singers at the Academy of Music, Brooklyn, last night, was composed of Signor Vizzani, formerly an actor of the old Pavilion Music Company, Signor Ferrero, Signor Ferrari, Signor Rocco, Signor Bellini, Signor Bellini, Jr., Signor Ferrero, Jr., Signor Vizzani, Jr., Signor Ferrero, Jr., Signor Ferrero, Jr., Signor Ferrero